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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VAN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2126

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/250,027

Applicant(s)  
AHMED et al.

Examiner  
VAN H. NGUYEN

Art Unit  
2126



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 11, 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 and 21-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is in response to the application filed on February 11, 1999. Claims 7-9 and 21-28 are presented for examination.

#### ***Specification***

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - On line 40, page 1, "Computer progams" should be "Computer programs".Applicant should review the entire specification and make appropriate corrections.
3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

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The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Correction is required.  
See MPEP § 608.01(b).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Claim 7, page 117, line 31, recites the limitation "the practice."

There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-9 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

**Traughber et al.** (U.S.6,256,678).

As to claim 7, Traughber teaches (col.3, line 24-col.5, line 57) apparatus adapted to be disposed within a first client application (a first set of software application programs) for intercommunicating (communication) with a second client application (a second set of software application programs), comprising:

- setup means (implemented on a general purpose computer) including predefinition storage means (data storage) for selectively predefining and storing one or more events (events), one or more interest objects (objects) corresponding respectively to the one or more events (events), and one or more functions (methods) corresponding respectively to the one or more events, the one or more events including a particular event (an instance);
- an operator (the user) corresponding to practice of the particular event by the first client application and for presenting (invokes) one or more functions (methods) to the operator in response to receipt of another event; and
- transmission (transmits) and reception (receives) means for transmitting the particular event stored in the predefinition storage means to the second client application when the particular event is practiced (creating, modifying and removing) by the first client application.

Traughber, however, is silent on “input means.”

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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made that input means must be implemented in the system of Traughber for receiving input from the operator.

**As to claim 8**, Traughber teaches (col.3, line 24-col.5, line 57) the transmission and reception means receives an interest object from the second client application via a server (client-server; col.14, lines 1-12) corresponding to the particular event, the setup means including filter and session means, the filter and session means comparing the interest object received by the transmission and reception means with the one or more interest objects stored in the predefinition storage means and identifying the particular event when the received interest object corresponds to one of the one or more interest objects stored in the predefinition storage means, the transmission and reception means transmitting the particular event stored in the predefinition storage means to the second client application when the particular event is identified by the filter and session means and the particular event is practiced by the first client application in response to the input provided by the operator via the input means.

**As to claim 9**, Traughber teaches the transmission and reception means transmits a second interest object (instances; col.4, lines 27-64) corresponding to another particular event to a server (server; col.14, lines 1-25), the server retransmitting the interest object to the second client application, the second client application transmitting the another particular event to the first client application when the second client application practices the another particular event, the transmission and reception means receiving the another particular event from the second client

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application, the filter and session means comparing the another particular event received from the transmission and reception means with the one or more events stored in the predefinition storage mean; and identifying another particular function among the one or more functions when the another particular event matches one of the one or more events stored in the predefinition storage means, the input means presenting the another particular function to the operator when the filter and session means identifies the another particular function.

**As to claim 21**, the rejection of claim 7 above is incorporated herein in full. However, claim 21 further recites “selectively determining how many of the plurality of events stored in the storage means will be transmitted to the other client applications and determining how many of the plurality of events stored in the storage means will be received from the other client applications and generating a signal in response thereto representative of a number of the events that can be transmitted to or received from the other client applications.”

Traugher teaches selectively determining (control the detach of instances; col.8, lines 37-56) how many of the plurality of events stored in the storage means will be transmitted to the other client applications and determining (control the attach of instances; col.8, lines 37-56) how many of the plurality of events stored in the storage means will be received from the other client applications and generating a signal (are notified appropriately; col.13, lines 22-42) in response thereto representative of a number of the events that can be transmitted to or received from the other client applications.

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6. Claims 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Traugher** in view of **Franklin et al.** (U.S. 5,214,756).

As to claim 25, the rejection of claim 7 above is incorporated herein in full. However, claim 25 further recites:

- a display screen for displaying one or more windows;
- one or more client applications adapted for presenting the one or more windows on the display screen for viewing by an operator;
- icon generating means for generating an icon in the window on the display screen of each of the client applications, the icon being operatively responsive to an input provided to the icon by the operator for generating a signal in response to the input from the operator;
- comparison means responsive to the input signal from the icon for comparing the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means with the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means and identifying one or more events stored in the storage means when the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means corresponds to one or more of the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means, the comparison means selecting some or all or none of the one or more events stored in the storage means, identified by the comparison means, in response to the input signal from the icon; and
- framework means responsive to the selection of the some or all or none of the one or more events by the comparison means for transmitting the some or all or none of the one



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or more events from the each of the one or more client applications to the other of the one or more client applications.

Traughber teaches:

- a display screen for displaying one or more windows (display; figs. 1A-1C)
- one or more client applications (Application programs; figs. A1-1C )
- framework means (transport framework; figs. 1A-1C) responsive to the selection of the some or all or none of the one or more events by the comparison means (control the attach and detach of instances; col.8, lines 37-56) for transmitting the some or all or none of the one or more events from the each of the one or more client applications to the other of the one or more client applications.

Traughber does not explicitly teach:

- icon generating means for generating an icon in the window on the display screen of the each the client application, the icon being operatively responsive to an input provided to the icon by the operator for generating a signal in response to the input from the operator;

- comparison means responsive to the input signal from the icon for comparing the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means with the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means and identifying one or more events stored in the storage means when the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means corresponds to one or more of the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means, the comparison means selecting some or all or none of the one or more events stored in the

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storage means, identified by the comparison means, in response to the input signal from the icon;  
and

Franklin teaches (col.3, line 6 - col.5, line 43):

- icon generating means for generating an icon (an icon or other object may be directly manipulated) in the window (the window) on the display screen (displays) of the each the client application (client application), the icon being operatively responsive to an input (a message is received) provided to the icon by the operator (the user) for generating a signal (indicating that an object, such as an icon, has been selected for manipulation) in response to the input from the operator;

- comparison means (the determination) responsive to the input signal from the icon for comparing the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means with the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means and identifying (determine if the icon in question is appropriately severed) one or more events stored in the storage means when the one or more interest objects received in the transmission and reception means corresponds to one or more of the plurality of interest objects stored in the storage means, the comparison means selecting (a determination whether or not the user has requested advise of update with regard to this particular object) some or all or none of the one or more events stored in the storage means, identified by the comparison means, in response to the input signal from the icon.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Franklin with Traughber because it would have

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provided Traughber's system with the enhanced capability for allowing a user to directly manipulate iconic representations of software applications by automatically controlling the communications between each icon and its associated source application.

**As to claim 26**, Franklin teaches the icon generating means generates an open state status icon (figs. 1-2), the comparison means selecting all of the one or more events stored in the storage means, the framework means transmitting all of the one or more events to the other of the one or more client applications.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Franklin with Traughber because it would have provided Traughber's system with the enhanced capability for allowing a user to directly manipulate iconic representations of software applications by automatically controlling the communications between each icon and its associated source application.

**As to claim 27**, Franklin teaches the icon generating means generates a closed state status icon (figs. 1-2), the comparison means selecting none of the one or more events stored in the storage means, the framework means transmitting all of the one or more events to the other of the one or more client applications.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Franklin with Traughber because it would have provided Traughber's system with the enhanced capability for allowing a user to directly

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manipulate iconic representations of software applications by automatically controlling the communications between each icon and its associated source application.

**As to claim 28**, Franklin teaches the icon generating means generates an event filter icon, (figs. 1-2) the comparison means selecting either some or all of the one or more events stored in the storage means, the framework means transmitting the some or all of the one or more events to the other of the one or more client applications.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Franklin with Traughber because it would have provided Traughber's system with the enhanced capability for allowing a user to directly manipulate iconic representations of software applications by automatically controlling the communications between each icon and its associated source application.

**As to claim 22**, Franklin teaches a visual display (figs. 1-2) on the display screen, the visual display including open state status icon means (figs. 1-2) for generating an open state status signal when the open state status icon means is clicked on by an operator, the open state status signal indicating that all of the plurality of events stored in the storage means can be transmitted by the transmission and reception means to the other client application or can be received in the transmission and reception means from the other client applications when the open state status icon means is clicked on by an operator.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Franklin with Traughber because it would have

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provided Traughber's system with the enhanced capability for allowing a user to directly manipulate iconic representations of software applications by automatically controlling the communications between each icon and its associated source application.

**As to claim 23**, Franklin teaches a visual display (figs. 1-2) on the display screen, the visual display including closed state status icon means (figs. 1-2) for generating a closed state status signal when the closed state status icon means is clicked on by an operator, the closed state status signal indicating that none of the plurality of events stored in the storage means can be transmitted by the transmission and reception means to the other client application or can be received in the transmission and reception means from the other client applications when the closed state status icon means is clicked on by an operator.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Franklin with Traughber because it would have provided Traughber's system with the enhanced capability for allowing a user to directly manipulate iconic representations of software applications by automatically controlling the communications between each icon and its associated source application.

**As to claim 24**, Franklin teaches a visual display (figs. 1-2) on the display screen, the visual display including event filter icon means (figs. 1-2) for generating a subwindow on the display screen when the event filter icon means is clicked on by an operator, the subwindow including the plurality of events, the subwindow adapted to receive an input from an operator, the subwindow generating signals in response to the input from the operator indicating the identity of

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specific ones of the plurality of events stored in the storage means that will be transmitted by the transmission and reception means to the other client application or will be received in the transmission and reception means from the other client applications.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Franklin with Traugher because it would have provided Traugher's system with the enhanced capability for allowing a user to directly manipulate iconic representations of software applications by automatically controlling the communications between each icon and its associated source application.

### *Conclusion*

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Cison et al. (U.S. 5,634,010) teaches "Managing and Distributing Data Objects of Different Types Between computers Connected to a Network."

- Dudzik et al. (U.S. 5,581,684) teaches Application -External Help System for a Windowing User Interface."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VAN H NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 306-5971. The

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examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM - 6:00PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternative Friday.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9000.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademark  
Washington, DC 20231

**or fax to:**

(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry)  
(703) 746-7238 (for After Final communications)  
(703) 746-7140 (for informal or draft communications)

Van Nguyen  
December 07, 2002

